

## REMARKS

Claims 1 through 49 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1 through 20 have been cancelled to comply with the Restriction Requirement.

In response to the Restriction Requirement in the April 2, 2008 Office Action, Applicant elects to proceed with examination of Claims 21-49 (Group II), drawn to methods for performing medical procedures. All of the pending claims are encompassed by the elected group.

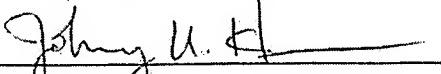
As for the species election, (Office Action, pg. 4), Applicant elects species IV (Figs. 35-45). All of the pending claims are encompassed by the elected species.

Applicant notes, however, that the devices and methods illustrated in, e.g., Figs. 40-43 explicitly incorporate and reference the devices and methods illustrated in, e.g., Figs. 1-3, 7, 21, and 25-27. (See, e.g., specification at [0249], [0257], and [0270]). Accordingly, these devices and methods are not mutually exclusive.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that, in light of the elections presented herein, claims 21 through 49 are presently under consideration. Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority to this application. Applicants respectfully request examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

In the event the appropriate fee and/or petition is not filed herewith and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-3973 referencing Attorney Docket No. USGINZ02512. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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